BROUGHT TO YOU BY PENNSYLVANIA DIVERSITY NETWORK

VALLEY GAY PRESS

SINCE 1998 - THE LEHIGH VALLEY'S GAY, LESBIAN, BISEXUAL & TRANSGENDER COMMUNITY OPINION & NEWS PAPER

VOL. 9 NO. 2 MARCH 2006

CHECK OUT PA DIVERSITY NETWORK'S WEBSITE AT WWW.PADIVERSITY.ORG

PENNSYLVANIA DIVERSITY NETWORK RECEIVES $20,000 GRANT TO EXPAND VGP INTO BERKS COUNTY!!!

Berks County Community Foundation (BCCF) has awarded Pennsylvania Diversity Network a $20,000 grant to expand the Valley Gay Press to include Berks County. The VGP will add four pages in June and begin to include Berks information in June. The paper's name will be changed to the Valley Gay Press, The Lehigh Valley and Berks County's Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Community Opinion and Newspaper. Funding will support free circulation of the paper to Berks GLBTA residents for one year. The BCCF grant money comes from the National Lesbian and Gay Community Partnership Foundation, which provides community foundations across the country money to support and work for equality for GLBT people.

AND PFLAG RECEIVES $18,000 BCCF GRANT FOR BERKS GLBT LIBRARY MATERIALS PROJECT

FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

GAYDAR & Federal Grill

2nd Annual Academy Awards Fund Raiser

OSCAR GOES BROKEBACK

To benefit AIDS Outreach, HAVEN & PRIDE of the Greater Lehigh Valley

Sunday March 5th
7PM-Midnight
Federal Grill (536 Hamilton St. Allentown)
$25 in advance/ $35 at the door
Must be 21 to attend

Sumptuous Buffet & Oscar Themed Cocktails
Door Prizes, Auctions, Live Entertainment, Oscar Ballots

For reservations
(610)776-7600

Sponsored by
City Entertainment | J&J Luxury Transportation

SPEAKERS AT MCC'S FREEDOM TO MARRY ACTION AT THE FED SOCIAL SECURITY OFFICE

MCCLV's Freedom to Marry courthouse action and ceremony were great successes. Freezing temperatures didn't keep a dozen speakers from making statements to the TV News and Press, nor did the cold keep 16 people from applying for marriage licenses. The next evening, despite a major snow storm, 130 people attended the delightful and moving marriage ceremony.

BINGO FACT BRUNCH & BINGO MARCH 26

CROWN PLAZA, ALLENTOWN
BRUNCH AT 10:30 TO 12:30
BINGO AT 1:00 PM

PDN PHOTO PROJECT: FACING INEQUALITY FIGHTING TO KEEP THE CONSTITUTION FREE OF DISCRIMINATION

Photos of 100 local same-sex couples will serve to remind the mainstream public of the discrimination and inequality our community will experience if the proposed anti-same-sex relationship amendments to the State and Federal Constitutions are successful. To learn more about the project and how to be a part of it, read Liz Out Loud on page 7.

GAY MEN'S CHORUS CONCERT

The LVGMC presents "GAYTEL - Hits of the 60's" on March 17 & 18 at 7:15 PM at the Stonewall Moose Lounge in Allentown. Tickets: $10. Seating is limited. Call 610-366-3320 to reserve a seat. Smoke-free.

HAVEN PRIZM PROM

The Haven Prizm Prom, will be themed Moulin Rouge and will be Saturday, April 29, 7-11 pm at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 424 Center Street, Bethlehem. The event is for youth GLBT and their allies ages 14-20. Admission: $10 in advance, $15 at the door, Refreshments served. Semi-formal (but not a requiremen)t, chaperoned. Sponsored by Haven and UUCLV. More info: 610-868-2153 or www.prizmprom.com.

GLBT Infoline

Greater Lehigh Valley

610-HELP-123

(610-435-7123)

PA DIVERSITY NETWORK BEGINS MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

BECOME A MEMBER TO RECEIVE THE VALLEY GAY PRESS IN THE MAIL, SEE PAGE 7

SCOTT SAYS

By Scott Laubner

Scott was just too busy navigating the wilds of NYC to get his column done for this month. But he promises he's already hard at work on his April column, so stay tuned!

FORGE THEATRE IN PHOENIXVILLE TO PRESENT THE GAY-THEMED DRAMA BREAKING THE CODE

Breaking the Code (by Hugh Whitemore - based on the book Alan Turing: The Enigma) is an exceptional and riveting biographical drama about Alan Turing, the brilliant mathematician whose work paved the way for the computer age and whose behind-the-scenes role in breaking the Germans' "Enigma" code assured an Allied victory in World War II. But it was his breaking another code, the law against practicing homosexuality, for which he is most remembered, and the subsequent trial that tarnished his reputation and unfairly stripped him of his livelihood and, ultimately, his life.

Forge Theatre is located at 241 First Avenue in Phoenixville. Production Dates March 17, 18, 24, 25, 30, 31, April 1 at 8:00 PM and March 26 at 2:00 pm. For reservations call 610-935-1920. Directed by T. Patrick Ryan (Wit and Keely and Du). Tickets: Adults - $10 Children (18 Under) - $6. For directions and information: www.forgetheatre.org

NJ GRANTS DP RIGHTS

"THIS IS THE MOST LOPSIDED PRO-LGBTI-RIGHTS VOTE IN NEW JERSEY HISTORY!" -- Steve Goldstien on the passage of NJ's DP partnership law in the NJ Senate by an astounding 35 yay to 0 nays votes. The law grants the surviving partner control of the estate and inheritance in the absence of a will and control of burial decisions absent a directive otherwise.

VALLEY GAY PRESS

WEB SITE: WWW.PADIVERSITY.ORG

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Columnists: Liz Bradbury, Patricia Sullivan, Denise McKelvey Ruby Zebu, Donnie and Earl Snyder, Stephen Libby, Scott Laubner

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Organizations that have VGPs for hand-out distribution:
Metropolitan Community Church of the Lehigh Valley
1901 S. 12th Street, Allentown 610-709-8800
PFLAG Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays
Allentown, 610.967.5219 HTTP://wwweastern-papflag.org/
Pride House at Muhlenberg College, Allentown
19th Street Theater -- 527 N 19th St. Allentown
Unitarian Universalist Church of the Lehigh Valley (UUCLV)
-- 424 Center St., Bethlehem
Haven GLBTA Youth Group at UUCLV

To Contact Valley Gay Press:
Mail to: PO Box 22902 Lehigh Valley, PA 18002 Phone: 610-432-5449
Email: info@padiversityorg To arrange for your group or organization to receive copies to distribute, contact VGP Some restrictions apply.

RAGS TO RICHES TAKE THE FIRST STEP

by Denise McKelvey

Dear Denise, My partner and I have been wrestling with getting our financial act together. We have discussed this issue, periodically over the last 6 years. We seem to disagree on what avenues to attack first. Our son is 12 and we have set some money aside for his education. We do enjoy traveling. We usually go to the normal hot spots, P-Town, Key West and the like. We seem to have a difference of opinion as to which way to proceed from a financial standpoint. Do you have any thoughts in getting started?
Signed, Still Wondering Partners

Dear Still, Let's start with some of the broad principals that you should keep in mind. You may be surprised to learn that, in my opinion, the most important "rules" can actually be stated very briefly:

1. Develop a solid, disciplined investment strategy.
2. Be willing to stay the course with good investments.

In some cases, investors who have adopted these simple principals have reaped great rewards. But while these rules are easy to state, they often prove hard to follow. Let's discuss some of the reasons why investors are often reluctant to hang in there through the bad times-and why that reluctance can cost them.

Newer investors worry that as soon as they decide to take the plunge and invest in stocks, the market will go down. When the market does go down, investors often start to worry that it will never rise again. While such fears are understandable, they are not supported by historical evidence. Despite the many horrid events of the last half-century and the many ups and downs experienced by the market over the years, $10,000 invested on January 1, 1941 would have been worth more than $11,000,000.00 on December 31, 2004.

With returns like that, you would think the average investor would be doing quite well. Unfortunately, that is not always the case. A survey conducted by DALBAR, Inc. discovered that, for the period 1985-2004, the average equity investor experienced annual total returns of 3.70%. During the same period the S&P 500 Index experienced annual returns of 13.20%

Why such a disparity? Too often investors allow their emotions to guide their decisions. Fear and greed get the better of them and they lose patience with even the best investments. They sell when they should hold (or even buy). Don't be one of those foolish investors!

When you start to get nervous consider this: Since the end of World War II, the stock market has experienced only 13 "down years." In all but one of those cases, the market made up its losses within three years. (Only the bear market of 2000-2002 took a bit longer.) First hand, I have coached clients thru this difficult time. Investors often find it easier to stay the course, when they have committed to a good investment strategy. I will continue with the strategies in the next column.

Businesses that have VGPs for hand-out distribution:
Diamonz Nightclub --1913 W. Broad St., Bethlehem
Stonewall Bar -- 28-30 N. 10th St., Allentown
Candida's -- 247 N. 12th St., Allentown
Hava Java Coffee Shop -- N. 19th St. Allentown
Fountainhead Book& Gifts -- 641 Penn Ave., West Reading

- Monthly Direct Mail Distribution-
Become a member of PA Diversity Network to get the Valley Gay Press mailed directly to your home. Send $15 for an individual membership or $20 for a family membership to: PA Diversity Network, PO Box 22902 Lehigh Valley, PA 18002. There are 10 VGP issues per year.

CHECK OUT PA DIVERSITY'S WEBSITE AT WWW.PADIVERSITY.ORG

HOT NEWS

HAVEN YOUTH GROUP

HAVEN MEETINGS : every Wednesday from 7:00 - 9:00PM at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 424 Center Street, Bethlehem. Meetings are open to GLBTAQI youth ages 14 - 20. For information: havenyouthgroup@hotmail.com or 610-868-2153.HAVEN needs facilitators. Facilitator training provided.

PFLAG NEWS

PFLAG - Parents, Families & Friends of Lesbians & Gays, www.eastern-pa-pflag.org. e-mail:info@eastern-pa-pflag.org. Meeting locations: LV - 1st Tues., 1st Pres. Church, Allentown. 610-967-5219. Reading - 3rd Tues., Unitarian Universalist Church, Reading. 610-967-5219. Monroe - 1st Wed., Eastern Monroe Public Library, Stroudsburg. 570-620-1234 .Meeting Dates: **Allentown:** March 7; **Monroe:** March 1; **Reading:** March 21

GAY MEN'S CHORUS

Artistic Director Adam P. Koch and the LVGMC welcome new singers and non-singers to join preparations for their June 3 concert. Singers should be able to sing tenor or bass and available for Tuesday evening rehearsals from 7 to 9:30 PM. Non-singers will assist with various concert-related duties. For more information, contact the LVGMC at 610-366-3320 or visit http://www.lvgmc.org.

STEVIE Z

Stevie performs piano music at the MooseLounge in Allentown,9PM-Midnite: Friday March 31(9PM-Midnite) 1/2 of tips for Jan/Feb/Marchgo to: AIDS Outreach.

GLORA

GLORA, The Gay and Lesbian Organization of Reading and Allentown, organizes social events for LV GLBT singles and couples. Contact GLORA http://glora.1colony.com or email Glora@dejazzed.com.

MCC CONCERT

CONCERT BY I.C.E. at MCCLV. ICE, In Christ Eternally, will be giving a concert to benefit MCCLV's mission trip to Appalachia on Friday, March 3, at 7:00 at the church. The concert is part of Friday Nite Live, a monthly social gathering at the church. The concert will be followed by karaoke and refreshemnts. $3.00 entrance fee; a love offering will also be taken. Come and be touched by spirit-filled music!

GLOSS EVENTS

The Gay & Lesbian Organized Sports Society (GLOSS) offers indoor & outdoor activities throughout the year. New GLBT and allied members are always welcome regardless of skill level. During the cold months, GLOSS offers bowling, racquetball and Pinochle.

Bowling: the 2nd Friday of the month, starting at 8:45pm at the former Rose Bowl (now the Playdrome) in Allentown. Pinochle: the 2nd Saturday of the month, starting at 7:00pm at members' homes. Racquetball: every Thursday and Saturday, starting at 7:00pm at the Allentown Racquet Club.

GLOSS has an email newsletter that will keep you updated on all their events. To sign up for the newsletter go to the website. GLOSS is always looking for people willing to be activity leaders. If your favorite activity is not listed, they will help you organize an event or outing by promoting it in the newsletter and website. GLOSS on the web: www.gloss.org, or email: Info@gloss.org.

THEATRE OUTLET SCHEDULE:

"Eleemosynary" by Lee Blessing, Directed by John Moletress, March 1-5, Thursday-Saturday at 8pm, Sunday at 3pm. Tickets: $18, $15, $10. Three generations of women fight to mend their strained relationship.

HipSoul: Food for Thought, Catered by YoMamma's Kitchen, March 18, An evening of Spoken word, Art, Hip Hop Performances, and Soul Food Cuisine.

"Cloud Tectonics" by Jose Rivera, Directed by Matthew Earnest, Artistic Director of deep ellum ensemble, March 31-April 16, Thursday-Saturday at 8pm, Sundays at 3pm. Jose Rivera's poignant play about love and time.

dance theatre X/Charles Anderson, April 21-22, 8pm.

"Men Of Clay" by Jeff Cohen, Regional premiere by acclaimed director Jeff Cohen, May 12-28, Thursday-Sat at 8pm, Sundays at 3pm. Set in 1970s Baltimore, five middle-aged Jewish men meet for their usual gameof tennis in a community that no longer has a place for them.

ROBERTA MEEK SINGS

Jazz singer Roberta Meek will be singing at First Friday at Fox Optical on Friday, April 7.

MCCLV SEEKS ARTISTS & CRAFTERS FOR SHOW

MCCLV will be hosting an Art and Craft Show on May 13 at the church. Booths will be availible for artists and crafters. Emailhelping.handsmcclv.org for details on how to participate. This event will help raise funds for MCCLV's mission trip to Appalachia this summer.

PDN WEB SITE NEW FEATURE

The PA Diversity Network web site (www.padiversity.org) now features a section for essays, reviews and opinion editorials. Check-out Robert Roush's essay on Brokeback Mountain. If you have an editorial or essay you'd like PDN to feature on the web site, please send it to info@padiversity.org for consideration.

JUSTIN LEE PLAY

The Omicron Theatre Project announces the Staged Reading of Justin Lee's newest play, Middleton: An American Tragedy, at The Theatre Outlet, MARCH 5 - 8 at 8PM nightly, Justin "J.C." Lee is an award winning playwright, director and actor.

IN THE LIFE ON PBS

The PBS gay and lesbian newsmagazine, In The Life, will aire locally on Channel 39, Monday, March 27 at midnight. This month: Episode:1506 -- 524,000 and Counting.

TURNING POINT BENEFIT

Help Support Turning Point of the Lehigh Valley and fight domestic violence! Come to A Night of Empowerment - a benefit concert featuring nationally acclaimed singer-songwriter Anne Hills and the executive director of the Women's Resource Center, Peg Ruddy. All procedes benefit Turning Point domestic violence shelter. March 11 from 7:00 - 10:00 at the Lehigh Valley Friends Meeting on the Bath Pike. Tickets are $25.. For more information, please contact Elizabeth Hessmiller, event chair, at fightabuse@gmail.com or 610-442-4055.

TO GET VGP

Direct mail subscriptions from PA Diversity Network of the Valley Gay Press will begin in 2006 to members of PA Diversity Network. To become a member of PA Diversity Network, send $15 for an individual membership or $20 for a family membership to PA Diversity Network, PO Box 22902, Lehigh Valley, PA 18102.

CHECK OUT PA DIVERSITY'S WEBSITE AT WWW.PADIVERSITY.ORG

CALENDAR

Am Haskalah, Jewish Reconstructionist Congregation, Services at Allentown JCC at 22nd and Tilghman Streets, http://www.jrf.org/amhaskpa,610-435-3775
ACCO-A Chorus Celebrating Women,
AIDS Outreach-112 N. 5th St. Allentown, PA 610.435.8424
AIDSWALK-see **FACT**
ASC- AIDS Service Center 610.974.8701
All Together Now - Supportive Ecumenical Christians, 610-398-1286, bluemountain@entermail.net
BGMSG - Berk's County Gay Men's Social Group -- singles and couples social events berksgmsg@aol.com
BMA- Bucks/Montgomery Alliance for Gay and Lesbian Concerns 215-529-0360
CHICOMAX.com- Informational website
CIVIC and 19th St. Theater, 527 N 19th St, 610-432-8943, <.civictheater,com>
CUUPS -- Covenenat of Unitarian Universalist Pagans every 4th Sunday at noon at the UUCLV. uuclv_cuups@yahoogroups.com.
Enigma Players -- qacres@prolog.net
equal@agere- email: equal@agere.com
FACT- Fighting AIDS Continuously Together 610.820.5519
GaydarMagazine -- www.gaydarmagazine.com
GLEE at Air Products
GLISN- at Dun & Bradstreet, <vagranthollow.com/GLISN/>
GLORA- Gay and Lesbian Organization of Reading and Allentown www.glora.1colony.com, glora@dejazzed.com
GLOSS - Gay and Lesbian Organized Sports Society, www.gloss.org Info@gloss.org
GLOW- at PPL
HAVEN GLBT Youth Group of the UUC LV - call: 610-868-2153, email: havenyouthgroup@hotmail.com
HMFF-Hope Ministry Family Fellowship, Sundays, 11 am, Open Space Gallery, 931 Hamilton St. 610-791-0716
Integrity- Lesbian & Gay Episcopalians Family & Friends meets quarterly. 610-758-8642 gamba.guy@verizon.net"
Infoline - Greater LV GLBT Infoline: 610-HELP123 (435-7123) M-F 6pm -9pm Office: 610-432-5449 info@padiversity.org
INTERWEAVE -- GLBTAI group at the UUCLV. 3rd Sundays.. Interweave_UUCLV@yahoogroups..com. www.uuclvpa.org 610-866-7652.
LVGMC -Lehigh Valley Gay Men's Chorus, email:info@lvmgc.org,<www.lvgmc.org> 610-366-3320, rehearsals:Tues.-Wesley United Methodist Church, 2540 Center St., Bethlehem
Lehigh Valley Transsexual Coalition- 610-610-997-0976, humanrights4all@aol.com, 610-814-0530 JamesHalleman@aol.com
MCC - Metropolitian Community Church, Merchants Square Mall, 1901 S. 12th Street, Allentown Services: 10:30am & 6pm, mcclehighvalley@ yahoo.com, http://www.mcclv.org 610-709-8800
Muhlenberg GSA Muhlenberg College Organization 610.821.3244
NCC- Northampton Community College GLB Student Union, 610.861.5541(#1386) or 882-2531
19th St & Civic Theatre - 610.432.8943
Out There- Students at Cedar Crest College
PA-Diversity Network- 610-432-5449 www.padiversity.org PO Box 22902 Lehigh Valley, PA 18002
PA-GALA - Pennsylvania Gay And Lesbian Alliance, (Candidate Guide, & Political Lobbying) P.O.Box 20825 Lehigh Valley 18002 610-863-0227 www.pa-gala.org

MARCH 2006

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	Through August 6th - Keith Haring Show @ Reading Art Museum		1 HAVEN Eleemsynary @ TO - to 5th M PFLAG	2 RAA GLOSS Trans Health to 4th	3 MCC Fri. Nite Live	4 WDIY
5 Gaydar Oscars GLOSS Lee's plays at TO - to 8th	6	7 LVGMC LV PFLAG PDN at Emmaus	8 HAVEN	9 RAA GLOSS	10 GLOSS Bowling	11 WDIY GLOSS GLOSS Pinocho Turning Point Be
12 WDIY GLOSS	13 RAA Cloud Techtonics @ TO - to 16th	14 LVGMC Harrisburg Rally	15 HAVEN	16 GLOSS RAA P PFLAG	17 Phoenixville Play Hipsoul @ TO LVGMC Cabaret at Moose	18 GLOSS WDIY
19 GLOSS MCC WDIY UUCLV PDN Photo Shoot	20 RAA RAA	21 R PFLAG LVGMC	22 HAVEN	23 RAA GLOSS	24 Phoenixville Play	25 WDIY WDIY GLOSS
26 GLOSS FACT MCC Bingo UUCLV	27 In The Life RAA	28 LVGMC	29 HAVEN	30 RAA GLOSS	31 Stevie Z	

APRIL 2006

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 GLOSS WDIY Phoenixville Play
2 GLOSS UUCLV HMFF WDIY	3 RAA	4 LVGMC LV PFLAG	5 HAVEN M PFLAG	6 RAA GLOSS	7 Roberta Sings	8 GLOSS GLOSS Pinochole WDIY
9 MCC GLOSS WDIY HMFF UUCLV	10 RAA	11 LVGMC	12 HAVEN	13 RAA GLOSS	14 GLOSS Bowling	15 WDIY GLOSS
16 HMFF MCC WDIY UUCLV GLOSS	17 RAA	18 R PFLAG LVGMC	19 HAVEN	20 P PFLAG GLOSS RAA	21 StevieZ Dance Theater at TO	22 WDIY GLOSS
23 WDIY UUCLV HMFF CUUPS 30 MCC GLOSS	24 RAA	25 LVGMC	26 HAVEN	27 GLOSS RAA	28	29 Prizm Prom

MAY 2006 PRIMARY ELECTION MAY 16

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 RAA	2 LVGMC LV PFLAG	3 HAVEN M PFLAG	4 GLOSS RAA	5 MCC Fri. Nite Live StevieZ	6 GLOSS WDIY
7 HMFF UUCLV WDIY GLOSS MCC	8 RAA	9 LVGMC	10 HAVEN	11 GLOSS RAA	12 GLOSS Bowling	13 WDIY GLOSS MCC Art Show GLOSS Pinochole
14 UUCLV MCC GLOSS HMFF WDIY	15 RAA	16 R PFLAG Vote LVGMC	17 HAVEN P PFLAG	18 RAA GLOSS P PFLAG	19	20 WDIY GLOSS
21 MCC GLOSS WDIY UUCLV	22 RAA	23 LVGMC	24 HAVEN	25 GLOSS RAA	26	27 WDIY GLOSS
28 HMFF MCC UUCLV WDIY GLOSS	29 RAA	30 LVGMC	31 HAVEN	RAA GLOSS		WDIY GLOSS

PARENTS- GLBT parent's group: 610-262-2519
PFLAG - LV Parents Families & Friends of Lesbians and Gays, 1st Tues. 1st Pres. Church Allentown 610.967.5219 www.eastern-pa-pflag.org
Pride - Pride of the Greater Lehigh Valley, (Pride Festival) 610.770.6200, email: <info@prideglv.org>, <www.pridelv.org>
Progressive Students Allaince - www.lehigh.edu/~inpstua/lvpsa/whatpsa.htm QuEST - Student group at Lafayette College ,
Quakers-Lehigh Valley Friends Meeting-Route 512 1/2 mi. North of Rte 22 Bethlehem, PA. Worship at 9:30 am. (610)691-3411.
RAA- Rainbow AA meetings, Mon. & Thurs. At 16th and Turner.
Ren- Renaissance Transgendered Assoc., Meets at MCCLV renlv.org
Reading P-FLAG- 610-967-5219
Safe Space- At Lehigh U. 610.758.5973
Temple Sophia, Interfaith Sanctuary 117 E Ridge St., Coaldale 18218 570-657-6447 Pastor: Rt. Rev. Tom Cormier
T.O. - Theatre Outlet-, Allentown, 610-820-9270.
UUCLV - Unitarian Universalist Church LV, 424 Center St., Bethlehem, 18018 610.866.7652.
VGP - Valley Gay Press, 610.432.5449, VGP@padiversity.org VGP PO Box 22902 Lehigh Valley PA 18002 www.padiversity.org
Wachovia-GALEA- Gay and Lesbian Employee Association. Contact GALEA@Wachovia.com
WDIY - WDIY - 88.1 fm 93.9 fm Sat. 6:00 pm This Way Out, Assorted Women 6:30 pm. 8100.88.

SPECIAL UPCOMING EVENTS:

LVGMC REHEARSALS - TUESDAYS
LV PFLAG - 1ST TUESDAYS
READING - PFLAG 3RD TUES
HAVEN - WEDNESDAYS
MONROE PFLAG - 1ST WEDS
PA-GALA - 1ST THURSDAYS
POTTSVILLE PFLAG - 3RD THURSDAYS
GLOSS RACQUETBALL-THURS & SAT
GLOSS BOWLING - 2ND FRI
COFFEE & STORIES - LAST FRI
GLOSS PINOCHLE - 2ND SATS
GLOSS GAME NIGHTS - 3RD SATS
INTERWEAVE - 3RD SUNDAYS
GLOSS TENNIS - SUNDAYS

FEB 16-AUG 6- HARING ART EXHIBIT
MAR 1-5 - ELEEMSYNARY @ TO
MAR 1 - MONROE PFLAG
MAR 2-4- TRANS HEALTH CONF
MAR 3 - MCC FRI NITE LIVE
MAR 5 - GAYDAR BENEFIT
MAR 5-8 - JUSTIN LEE @ TO
MAR 7 - LV PFLAG
MAR 7 - PODN SPEAKS @ EMMAUS
MAR 11 - TURNING POINT BENEFIT
MAR 13-16 - CLOUD TECTONICS @ TO
MAR 14 - HARRISBURG RALLY
MAR 14 - READING PFLAG
MAR 16 - POTTSVILLE PFLAG
MAR 17-18 LVGMC CABARET
MAR 17-18 - PHOENIXVILLE PLAY
MAR 18 - HIPSOUL@ TO
MAR 19 - PHOTO SHOOT
MAR 21 -READING PFLAG
MAR 24-26 - PHOENIXVILLE PLAY
MAR 26 - FACT BINGO
MAR 27 - IN THE LIFE ON PBS
MAR 30-31 - PHOENIXVILLE PLAY
MAR 31 - STEVIEZ@MOOSELOUNGE
APR 1 - PHOENIXVILLE PLAY
APR 4 - LV PFLAG
APR 5 - MONROE PFLAG
APR 7 - ROBERTA MEEK
APR 18 - READING PFLAG
APR 21-22 - DANCE THEATER @ TO
APR 29 - HAVEN PROM
MAY 13-MCC ARTS & CRAFTS

INFORMATION SUBJECT TO CHANGE!
TO POST INFO: 610-432-5449
INFO@PADIVERSITY.ORG

TAKE ACTION! ATTEND HARRISBURG RALLY ON MARCH 14!

The Center for Lesbian and Gay Civil Rights is coordinating the Value All Families Coalition rally opposing the anti-family state constitutional amendments in Harrisburg on March 14. The rally will occur in the Capitol Rotunda at 2:00. Lobby training will be held a block away from the Capitol building at 11:00 at St. Michael Lutheran Church, 118 State St., Harrisburg. The coalition encourages people to visit legislators that day in Harrisburg from 12:00 to 1:45. Both the Center and PA-GALA are working to organize bus transportation to Harrisburg from Philadelphia and Pittsburgh. If you are interested in taking a bus to the rally or need additional information, call the Center at 215-731-1447 ext. 10.

PA-GALA NEEDS YOU

Pennsylvania Gay and Lesbian Alliance holds open meetings on the 3rd Sunday of every month at 4pm in the boardroom of the Pride of GLV Office, located at 1101 Hamilton St., Allentown.

PA-GALA is organizing grassroots efforts for community members to lobby their State Representatives against the proposed state Constitutional Amendment. PA-GALA is also planning a "Meet the Candidates" fundraiser night for Thursday, April 20. PA-GALA seeks volunteers for these and other important efforts.

From speaking with elected officials to stuffing envelopes to making phone calls, or simply by becoming a member, renewing your membership, making a donation, or holding a fundraising party at your home or business, PA-GALA needs you. The time to get involved is now! For more info, email info@pa-gala.org, call 610-863-022, or visit www.pa-gala.org.

TRANS HEALTH CONFERENCE

The 2006 Annual Philadelphia Trans-health Conference - dates: March 2-4, location: Philadelphia Convention Center, 12th and Arch Streets, will bring together transgender and gender-variant people, partners, allies and healthcare providers for three days of workshops, keynotes, discussion, and networking. Full programming schedule available at www.trans-health.org. Call Joe Ippolito 215-563-0663 to volunteer.

RANTS & RAVES BY STEPHEN T. LIBBY

More Academy Awards B.S.

You're probably reading this after the Academy Awards, AKA The Gay Super Bowl. In the last issue I predicted some nominees but forgot to predict the winners. Now that I know who the nominees are, I pick for Best Picture: Brokeback Mountain. There is the off chance that a backlash from the mostly older conservative academy members (this is a GAY cowboy movie in the land where cowboy movies are sacred) could end with Crash taking the Oscar Gold. Best Director will be Ang Lee for Brokeback Mountain, even if Crash wins Best Picture, because he is over due. Best Actor will be Philip Seymour-Hoffman for living the role of Capote. He's won the lion's share of awards this season and it wont stop before March 5.

This is where things get tricky. Best Actress: Golden Globe winners Felicity Huffman (drama-TransAmerica) and Reese Witherspoon (comedy/musical-Walk the Line) will duke it out. The academy voters have a history of rewarding drama over comedy or musical performers. But the subject matter in TransAmerica will likely benefit Ms Witherspoon whose role as June Carter was as dramatic as anything else I've seen this year. Go see Walk the Line for the last ten minutes alone. It left me with such a romantic glow, I humped the usher on my way out of the theatre. Okay, that may not be romantic to some of you...to each his own. But, we both smoked a cigarette after.

Best Supporting Actor: Another tough call. The academy will want to reward George Clooney for something since he is nominated in three categories (Director, Original Screenplay and here). My hunch is he will edge out catcher Jake Gyllenhaal who has almost as much screen time as pitcher Heath Ledger in Brokeback and Paul Giamatti (Cinderella Man), snubbed by the academy the last two years for American Splendor and Sideways.

Best Supporting Actress is where the academy likes to show how hip it can be. How else to explain past winners Mira Sorvino and Marisa Tomei? None of the films were blockbusters, so I'm going with Rachel Weisz in The Constant Gardener. She has the presence of old Hollywood glamour. However, either Amy Adams (Junebug) or Michelle Williams (Brokeback Mountain) could be a spoiler.

Best Animated Feature should go to Wallace & Gromit in the Curse of the Were-Rabbit. No songs from Brokeback were nominated (what the F!?). Best Song will go to Dolly Parton for Travelin' Through from TransAmerica. Trivia Note: Miss Parton was nominated 25 years ago for the song 9 to 5. She didn't win, but she will on March 5.

Please do not hold me responsible for any wagers you may make based on this list of predictions. I spent an exhaustive ten minutes researching this article, which L & T can verify is twice as long as I normally spend researching anything. Hope you win your Oscar pool. See you at the Federal Grill on Sunday March 5th for our Academy Awards fundraiser benifitting AIDS Outreach, HAVEN & Pride of the Greater Lehigh Valley.

PLANET Parenthood

by Earl and Donnie Snyder
donniearlucas@msn.com

Love Is in the Air

With spring just around the corner thoughts of love are everywhere. We had National Freedom to Marry Day and Valentine's Day. Although as gays and lesbians, we do not have the freedom to marry, we do have the right to love. Couples, gay and straight, love each other. Parents love their children and kids love their parents. Love is good and is to be encouraged within society and within the family. We encourage love within our family all the time, sometimes in some very subtle ways that are generally taken for granted.

By legally adopting our son and by providing him with a home and food we show him that we love him. By teaching him songs and reading books we show that we love him. By providing discipline when he goes near an electrical outlet or when trying to stand up on a chair, we are showing that we love him. By worrying and reading child-raising books we are demonstrating our love, and the list goes on.

We show our love in some very obvious ways as well, showering Lucas with praise, hugs and kisses. He responds wonderfully to affection. He hugs and kisses his dads all the time. At bedtime, in the morning, and when he is leaving to visit his grandparents.

Lucas's dads also demonstrate their love for each other in the obvious "kisses and hugs" way and subtle ways, such as going to work each day to pay the bills, cooking, cleaning and working on home remodeling together. Of course disagreements exist, sometimes on child raising techniques. But the differences are worked out or an "agreement to disagree" is made and that becomes the common ground. In the end there are always many hugs and kisses between Lucas's dads.

We have found that children are very observant. They see and hear everything and learn quickly, a lot by example. By example, Lucas is learning to show affection to those he loves and to encourage love between those who care for each other. Lucas enjoys doing the group hug thing with his dads, and then he pushes his dads' faces together to end it with a kiss. He giggles and smiles, because he is two. When he is twenty-two he may not be giggling any more, but we know he will be smiling.

PARKLAND HS GSA HOLDS FUNDRAISER

FOR GAY YOUTH HOMELESS SHELTER

Parkland High School's Gay/Straight Alliance, ACCEPT, recently raised $120 for the Ali Forney Center through the club's "Decorate-Your-Own-Cookie" sale. The fundraiser was so successful that they sold out of cookies before the event was finished and resorted to selling ice cream, which also sold out. One student who was unaffiliated with ACCEPT promoted the fundraiser by telling his friends, "The gay cookies are really good!"

Parkland's ACCEPT chose to fundraise for the Ali Forney Center due to its important contribution to the GLBT community. The AFC is a homeless shelter in New York which provides emergency shelter and transitional housing for gay youth in the city. Forty percent of the homeless youth in New York identify as gay or transgendered, and most became homeless after being kicked out of their houses. The Ali Forney Center is the only shelter that exclusivley provides for gay youth. Parkland's ACCEPT was very excited to help support this important organization.

What's That About?

Readers write or email "What's That About" editor Liz Bradbury with questions about GLBT issues.

Dear WTA: My partner's medical insurance rates rose for 2006. My company offers a much better program at a cheaper rate and offers domestic-partnership benefits. So we thought it would be a no-brainer to sign him up as my domestic partner. We've had the coverage for a month now and have discovered some interesting things about having DP coverage. First of all, my payroll deductions for his coverage cannot be taken "Pre-Tax" (like my own or if he were a "spouse"). I have to pay taxes on the money that the company pays towards my DP's coverage! (i.e. If I pay $50 a month towards his coverage, and the company pays $150, I have to pay the government taxes on $200, not just $50!) My company calls the amount I have to pay tax on imputed income.

At first paying taxes on this money doesn't sound all that bad... but when I did the math, his monthly medical benefits are costing us around $250 a month, when we originally had planned on them only costing around $160.

Many thoughts are racing through my head: This is unfair! What is this imputed income? Is this legal? Have you heard of this before? Do I need to get ready to be hit with all the tax when I file? What makes him different from a spouse?

And one more irritation... the insurance company (Blue Cross / Blue Shield) has to list a DP as a "child"!?! I called them and asked why we did not get a medical card with my DP's name on it, and the automated help-system said he was a child. When I inquired about this with a customer rep at the company, they confirmed this and said "It's the only way we can represent DP's in our computer. Don't worry; he shouldn't have any problems using the card." (Not very reassuring...) **Signed Paul Narsavage**

Dear Paul: Yes, this sucks doesn't it. And yes, it is one more way that same-sex couples are discriminated against even when we are able to get DP benefits through work. Trish worked for the state of NY and is retired, and (luckily) I get health benefits through her as part of this system. But yes, we have to pay the federal tax on it as though it were part of her income. That's what imputed income is. It is a federal tax, it's a federal law and it's aimed right at the gay community to devalue our ability to protect our families.
This is purely a federal government decision, so even those who have Civil Unions have to pay it.

As far as the saying, "This dependent is a child" goes...that seems phoney to me. They need to change it on the card. I am not listed as a child on Trish's policy -- we have Blue Cross from NY State. I am listed as a Domestic Partner. It may just be a middle management mistake that you could get changed by complaining to a higher up person.

We received several questions to WTA this month but only had room to answer one. We'll follow up on the other questions next month.

THE LEHIGH VALLEY PROGRESSIVE STUDENTS ALLIANCE HAS SIGNED ON TO THE VGP ANTI-DISCRIMINTION

CHECK OUT PA DIVERSITY'S WEBSITE AT WWW.PADIVERSITY.ORG

CHECK OUT PA DIVERSITY'S WEBSITE AT WWW.PADIVERSITY.ORG

LIZ OUT LOUD©

100 COUPLES NEEDED

By Liz Bradbury

When football star Lynn Swann recently declared himself a Republican candidate for Pennsylvania Governor, a reporter asked his stand on same-sex relationships. He responded with something like:..."Two men together? That's not OK, and we have to get that in the Constitution..."

Gee, I hope Mr. Swann is reading this so he can learn that putting an anti-gay amendment in a constitution is not going to make same-sex couples disappear. We're here, we've been around forever and were not going away. We're good citizens, we pay taxes, we're your neighbors. We work in the stores you shop, we remodel houses in your community, we teach your children. We're your doctors, your lawyers, your elected officials. We're clergy, and homeowners, nannies, artists and EMTs. We're your friends and your family. We are everywhere.

But just saying it isn't enough. I decided to provide a way to show the mainstream community that long term same-sex couples are together and are living right here in the Lehigh Valley. We exist and we deserve equal rights.

So here's my plan: I've begun photographing same-sex couples in the community. All different types of people; older and younger, those who have been together forever, those who are just beginning their relationships. Professionals, college students, blue collar workers... everybody.

The criteria is that the couples must be in a committed long term relationship that may be harmed by the pending Constitutional amendment. The amendment will disallow same-sex marriage in PA forever. It will disallow Civil Unions. Anything that could be substantially similar to marriage rights, will be deemed invalid. That could mean domestic partner benefits, powers of attorney, wills and possibly adoption. To participate in this photo exhibit then please contact me.

You and your partner have to be willing to have your pictures and names in public. There may be some press coverage of the photo exhibition and PA Diversity Network will try to get a poster made that shows all 100 couples. The show will be called: Facing Inequality - Fighting To Keep Discrimination Out of the Constitution.

So far, Trish and I have asked 30 different couples to participate and guess what, 29 of them have said yes. The show will be in the PDN gallery, with a special opening. Then it will travel around the community. It will be at MCC and at Theater Outlet during Pride month, and at several other venues.

So, if you would like to be part of this exciting project, please call me (610-432-5449) or email (lbradbury@padiversity.org). We will have a photo gathering all day on Sunday, March 19 at the PDN gallery. You can stop by any time that day from 11am to 6pm and get your picture taken. Call for directions. It you can't make it that day, call and arrange a different time. We plan to have at least 100 photos by the end of March.

By the way, while your support of this project is important, it doesn't take the place of lobbying your State Representative, attending rallies, writing letters, working with PA-GALA or

POTTSVILLE PFLAG

Pottsville PFLAG meetings are the third Thursday of each month and begin at 6:30pm at the Terrence Reiley Community Building, 216 North 12th Street, Pottsville. The meetings are free and open to the public. For information, please call our Helpline at (570) 624-3151. The March meeting will feature a presentation on HIV/AIDS Education and Prevention.

TRISH'S COLUMN©

POLITICAL LEGACIES - DISCRIMINATION AND DIVISIVENESS OR EQUALITY AND INCLUSION?

By Patricia Sullivan

I remember Senator Strom Thurmond of South Carolina setting a record for his 24 hour and 18 minute speech against the Civil Rights Act of 1957. Just a few years, ago at Thurmond's 100th birthday party, then House of Representatives Speaker Trent Lott said: "I want to say this about my state: When Strom Thurmond ran for President, we voted for him. We're proud of it. And if the rest of the country had followed our lead, we wouldn't have had all these problems over all these years, either." Lott, who by the way, as a student at "Ole Miss," led a fight to keep blacks out of his national fraternity, was pushed out of Congress in disgrace for his stupid remark about Thurmond. And after Strom Thurmond's death at 100 years old, it was revealed that he had a black daughter, the product of a short affair with a 15 year old maid in his family's home.

I remember Governor George Wallace standing in a school house door to block integration of Alabama public schools. I can still hear him saying, what has become his most memorable quote,..."Segregation today...segregation tomorrah...segregation fo'evah." Children died and people were beaten in the streets and killed because George Wallace gave ignorant people a license to hate. To this day Wallace is the poster child for bigotry.

I remember when North Carolina Senator Jessie Helms, in opposition to a national Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday, attempted to fuel white fears by whistling "Dixie" while he stood next to Senator Carol Mosely Braun. Dr. Martin Luther King, a citizen who never held elected office, was the catalyst that changed the way America viewed and treated a portion of its citizens who historically faced daily racist, restrictive laws. His vision was holistic and grounded in non violence. His legacy is celebrated with a national holiday. People rarely speak of Helms, unless they are talking about racism.

A new survey by presidential scholars places James Buchanan, Lincoln's predecessor, at the top of the list of past presidential blunderers, for his failure to address the issues of racist divisiveness that ultimately led to the Civil War. Most of us never think about James Buchanan, but as a nation we honor the president who ended slavery, Abraham Lincoln, every year.

GLBT people face daily discrimination and are victims of violence stemming from bigotry and hate fueled by anti-gay rhetoric from right wing conservative leaders and religious extremists. Now our elected officials are being called upon to write unprecedented discrimination against a minority into our State and Federal Constitutions by banning any legal recognition of same-sex relationships forever. This legislation, if passed, will severely impact the lives of a minority segment of the population, depriving them of the ability to support, care for and protect their life partners and children.

When you get a chance to talk to your legislators, ask them if they want their legacy to be like that of Buchanan, Wallace, Thurmond and Lott, who are remembered for hatred, divisiveness and discrimination, or would they prefer to be remembered for their pursuit of equality and freedom like Abraham Lincoln and Dr. Martin Luther King. Their vote will be their legacy. It will be recorded for posterity and future generations will judge them by their capacity to visualize the future.

KEITH HARING ART SHOW AT READING ART MUSEUM

The Reading Museum of Art is presenting -- Keith Haring: Journey of the Radiant Baby from 2/18/06 to 8/6/06. The show features 125 works by Haring, the openly gay visionary artist icon who was born in Reading and raised in Kutztown. Haring died of AIDS in 1990.

POP QUIZ

Sure, sure, it's Oscar Time, but these are the real winners...

1. When Bugs Bunny dressed up in a flowered dress and a fruity hat to dance the samba, he was emulating drag icon:

2. _____ was a cartoon homage to 1920s jazz singer Helen Kane. Mae Questel provided her voice from the 30s through the late 1980s (in Roger Rabbit).

3. Foghorn Leghorn, the loud-mouthed cartoon rooster, was fashioned after "Senator Beauregard Claghorn," a regular character on the 1940s _____ radio show. A. Fred Allen B. Jack Benny C. Burns and Allen D. Edgar Bergan

4. Yogi Bear's name comes from:

5. Inspiration for the French sexual harassing skunk Pepe Le Pew came from Charles Boyer's portrayal of movie character Pepe Le ____, who was famous for saying..."Come with me to the _____."

Who inspired the voices for cereal celebs:
6. Count Chocula 7. Frankenberry 8. Boo Berry

9. "Ricochet Rabbit's" right-hand-man Deputy Droopalong, was inspired by the character _____ from the TV western _____.

10. Cartoon dogs (of several eras) who said, "I'm gonna get me a rabbit," and "Which way did he go George?" were inspired by George's 's brother Lenny from the literary work _____.

1.Carmen Miranda 2.Betty Boop 3.A 4.Yogi Berra 5.Moko, Casbah 6.Bela Lugosi 7.Bons Karloff 8.Peter Lorre 9.Chester Goode, Gunsmoke 10.Of Mice and Men

QUOTE #7

"...(B)ut are your religious or personal views a reason to rewrite our constitution to ensure that some families have rights, while others don't? -- **Morning Call Coulmnist Bill White on the introduction of a PA anti-gay Cons. Amendment.**

VALLEY GAY PRESS BOOK REVIEW

"The Intimate World of Abraham Lincoln," by C.A. Tripp, Free Press, $27

Most art, literature and history is studied from the straight, white, male perspective. If a famous man professed his undying devotion to a woman and slept with her for years, SWM academic theory would presume the couple was sexually involved and use that as proof of heterosexuality. C.A. Tripp simply looks at the facts of Lincoln's intimate life from the position of a queer theory scholar. Interpreting findings from a queer point of view takes this book beyond the genre of biography and helps us understand how all historical theory about any minority has been skewed to fit a mainstream mold, disregarding history as it most probably was.

We believe it would improve the quality of life in the Lehigh Valley if all people were equally protected from unfair discrimination based upon actual or perceived: race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry or place of birth, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital status, family status, age, disability or use of a guide animal, in the areas of employment, housing, and public accommodation.

PA Diversity Network
GLBT Infoline
PA-GALA
Valley Gay Press
Allentown Human Relations Commission
Safe-Space of Lehigh University
PFLAG Lehigh Valley
ACCO - A Chorus Celebrating Women
GLORA
Pride of the GLV
LV Gay Men's Chorus
NCC GLBT Student Union
The Lehigh Valley Labor Party
EQUAL! at Agere
Metropolitan Community Church LV
OutThere - Cedar Crest
9th Street Shelter Allentown
LV Community Action Committee
GLEE at Air Products
FACT
AIDS Outreach
The Unitarian Universalist Church LV
GLOSS
LEPOCO
GLISN of Dun & Bradstreet
AIDS Services Center
Theatre Outlet
Integrity - Bethlehem
The Lehigh Valley Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)
Civic Theater 19th Street Theatre
The Latin Alliance
The Enigma Players
New Covenant Family Ministries
Properties of Merit
Allentown City Democratic Committee
Episcopal Diocese of Bethlehem
Puerto Rican Cultural Alliance
Turning Point of the Lehigh Valley
Muhlenberg Theater Association
Crime Victims Council of the Lehigh Valley
Touchstone Theater
Congregation Am Haskalah

To add your organization to this list, Contact VGP

QUOTE #1

"Some people are blind or ignorant, and you can't be that prejudiced and hateful and go through this world and still be happy. One thing about this movie is that I think art can change minds. It's all right to be who you are." -- **Dolly Parton (composer of Travelin' Thru," from Transamerica) on anti-gay hate mail she has received.**

QUOTE #2

"I still hear people say that I should not be talking about the rights of lesbian and gay people and I should stick to the issue of racial justice. ... But I hasten to remind them that Martin Luther King Jr. said, 'Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.'" -- **Coretta Scott King speaking in 1998**

QUOTE #3

"Like Martin, I don't believe you can stand for freedom for one group of people and deny it to others. So I see this bill as a step forward for freedom and human rights in our country and a logical extension of the Bill of Rights and the civil rights reforms of the 1950's and '60's. The great promise of American democracy is that no group of people will be forced to suffer discrimination and injustice." -- **Coretta Scott King, June 23, 1994 on the introduction of ENDA, Washington, DC**

QUOTE #4

"The hatred and loathing fueling this morning's vicious attack on gay men in New Bedford is not innate, it is learned. And who is teaching it? Leaders of the so-called Christian right, that's who. Individuals like James Dobson of Focus on the Family, the Family Research Council's Tony Perkins, the Rev. Pat Robertson...they use their vast resources, media networks and affiliated pulpits to blame (GLBT) people for all the ills of society. They disguise their hatred as 'deeply held religious beliefs.' The blood spilled this morning is on their hands." -- **Statement by Matt Foreman, Exec. Director, National Gay and Lesbian Task Force**

QUOTE #5

"And people ask why gay couples want the right to civil marriage? Because they are always one ornery relative away from having their relationships shredded under the law." -- **Andrew Sullivan's Blog**

QUOTE #6

"Not one marriage is protected by this amendment and all marriages are devalued when used as a political ploy," -- **HRC's President, Joe Solmonese**

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by Ruby Zebu

The Story Behind Cartoon Hollywood

The editorial columns and political cartoon that appear in Valley Gay Press express the opinions of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the opinion or attitude of this publication. VGP makes no indication of the sexual orientation of persons, organizations, or businesses mentioned in any issue.

CHECK OUT PA DIVERSITY NETWORK'S WEBSITE AT WWW.PADIVERSITY.ORG